

NICE, MARGARET M.

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WALKINSHAW, LAWRENCE H.

1938 Nesting Studies of the Prothonotary Warbler. *Bird-Banding*, 9:32-46.

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BOB-WHITE POPULATIONS AS AFFECTED BY WOODLAND MANAGEMENT IN EASTERN TEXAS. By Daniel W. Lay. *Texas Agric. Exper. Sta. Bull.* 592, Aug., 1940: 37 pp., 13 figs., 4 tables.

This is an informatively illustrated publication based chiefly upon records of numbers and distribution of Bob-white coveys in relation to plant succession in forest habitats. Studies were carried on by means of stomach analyses, field observations, quadrats, inquiry into the histories of cutover, burned, and grazed woodlands, and through supervised driving by C.C.C. enrollees for census purposes.

Thick woods did not constitute favorable environment for the species. Also few birds were found during the years immediately following logging; between the fifth and ninth years, quail populations generally reached peak levels, to begin their decline about the tenth year. The status of a Bob-white population, however, is more significantly linked with vegetative types than with the age of the cutover. Burning disturbed plant succession more than did timber cutting; less than clearing or cultivation.

Final paragraphs of author's summary:

"Recommendations for management of quail in the cutover shortleaf-loblolly pine-hardwood type include plowing and brush clearing in spots and along trams, protection from heavy grazing and overshooting, little or no restocking of quail or control of so-called predators except locally as needed, some burning of slash under certain carefully regulated conditions, optional planting of feed patches, and careful regulation of hunting."

"Favorable environmental change could be induced by land owners under a rotational system of harvesting timber. They could favor the interspersing of various timber age-classes that is essential to continuous quail production. Foresters should give consideration to such silvicultural practices as will be compatible with both timber and wildlife management."

The bulletin should be a useful reference for all persons interested in the ecology or management of south-central Bob-whites. It leaves the impression of being conservatively written, with the author himself recognizing that some phases of the investigation require both more intensive and extensive work.

On the other hand, the use of "carrying capacity" in apparent synonymy with quail counts may be questioned, especially when populations were under observation for a period as brief as two years and were living on lands subject to unregulated shooting. It may likewise be questioned whether an exposition having the scope indicated by the title should have been presented without referring either in text or in bibliography to the researches of Stoddard on southeastern Bob-whites, which almost certainly laid a pioneering groundwork for the Texas study.—Paul L. Errington.